

REMARKS

The undersigned thanks the Examiner for the suggestions provided during the telephone conversation of June 8, 2004, to explicitly recite “a perpendicular recording layer” and “wherein the underlayer comprises an easy axis of magnetization directed in a radial direction of the magnetic recording disk,” which would result in the claimed perpendicular recording layer having an easy axis of magnetization directed in a radial direction. The Examiner’s suggested limitations should distinguish the inventions of independent claims 1, 20 and 21 over the newly cited Matsuda reference which relates to a “magnetic recording medium … [having] a longitudinal film having an easy axis in an in-[p]lane direction” (column 6, lines 45-46) or to a “magnetic recording medium … [having] a perpendicular film having an easy axis in a perpendicular [i.e., transverse] direction” (column 8, lines 22-24). Matsuda does *not* disclose a perpendicular recording medium having a perpendicular film having an easy axis in a radial direction. In light of the above, the pending anticipation and obviousness rejections over Matsuda, which are respectfully traversed, should be withdrawn.

The undersigned further thanks the Examiner for the suggestions provided during the telephone interview of July 27, 2004, when the Examiner suggested deleting “the underlayer comprising an easy axis of magnetization directed in a direction substantially transverse to a traveling direction of the magnetic head” in claim 1. This is because claim 1 now recites “wherein the underlayer comprises an easy axis of magnetization directed in a radial direction of the recording medium.”

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952**, reference No. **146712001800**. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,
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